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6/15/90	#67	"Beyond Reason" / Self-Abuse
6/18/90	#68	Alan Alda / Cloris Leachman
6/19/90	#69	Bill Cosby
6/20/90	#70	Warren Beatty
6/21/90	#71	"Reasonable Doubt" / Pia Zadora
6/22/90	#72	Gay Former Umpire / Sharon Stone
6/26/90	#73	Capital Punishment / "Eichmann in My Hands"
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6/28/90	#75	Mayor Barry Trial / "The Man Who Made it Snow"
6/29/90	#76	Roxanne Pulitzer / Julia Child / Kovacsland
7/2/90	#77	Sullivanian Cult / Custody Case
7/3/90	#78	Excommunicated Catholic / Marcos Trial Attorney
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7/24/90	#93	Mario Cuomo
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7/27/90	#96	Donald Trump
7/30/90		PRE-EMPTED
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8/2/9	#99	Iraq Invasion of Kuwait / S&L Debacle: Who's to Blame / Charles Keating
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Larry King Live

Escape from Kuwait / Chemical Weapons Claims Father Killed JFK

LARRY KING ..... Host

Guests:
STEVE BETTS, Escaped from Kuwait
DAVID SILVERSTEIN, Heritage Foundation
JOHN ISAACS, Council for a Livable World
RICKY WHITE, Claims Father Killed JFK

Senior Executive Producer ..... TAMARA HADDAD

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Mr. ISAACS: I'm hopeful that the pressure that's building up — international pressure, economic pressure, oil pressure — helps to keep the situation in check, that the Iraqis don't attack across the border, that some other solution is found beyond a military solution and I think it's very possible.

KING: Thank you both very much. Our guests have been David Silverstein and John Isaacs of the Heritage Foundation and the Council for a Livable World. When we come back, we'll switch gears a little. Ricky White will be with us. You may have heard that story. It gained a lot of — in fact, about the only thing gaining — headlines while this was, and they claimed that his father may have been involved in the assassination of John F. Kennedy. We'll discuss that after this. Don't go away.

ANNOUNCER: Coming up, who really killed John F. Kennedy?

[Commercial break]

Claims Father Killed JFK

KING: A couple of quick notes before we meet our next guest. Tomorrow night, we'll meet antiwar activists. Yes, the rumblings begin discussing that aspect of the Persian Gulf. One week from tonight, Steve Martin will be our special guest, and during all this thunder and lightening and our return from the Goodwill Games, we have neglected to welcome aboard the new president of CNN, Tom Johnson. He left *The Los Angeles Times* to come with us, the electronic side of media, and we happily welcome him aboard. Also, we're happy to tell you that Burt Reinhardt, the retiring president, will still be with us in Atlanta as vice chairman for the next year. So, welcome aboard, Tom Johnson, happy Bert is still with us, the whole family remains. We endeavor to bring you 24 hours a day the best in coverage.

Ricky White has a startling theory on the assassination of John F. Kennedy. He says his father, with two other men, fired on the presidential motorcade on that fateful day in Dallas. It is his claim that his father, Roscoe White, was actually the one to fire the shot that mortally wounded the President. How did you find this out, Rick?

RICKY WHITE, Claims Father Killed JFK: It was in 1985, when I had come across a part in the diary, that I found the diary—

KING: Your father kept a diary.

Mr. WHITE: Yes, sir. I found the diary in 1982 when my grandfather had passed away in Paris, Texas, and from that point on, I took the diary back to Midland, Texas, with other material that was located in the footlocker that I found there in Paris.

KING: This is your father, now.

Mr. WHITE: Yes, sir, my father's footlocker that he had placed there at my grandfather's place in Paris, Texas.

KING: I see. So you went to your grandfather's place. Your father was still living.

Mr. WHITE: No, sir, he was killed in 1971.

KING: Okay, so he was dead a long time then. You were a young

man.

Mr. WHITE: Yes, sir.

KING: How old were you when he died?

Mr. WHITE: I was 10 years old.

KING: Okay, so you go to your— your grandfather passes away, you go to your grandfather's house, collect all this stuff, and your father's stuff was there.

Mr. WHITE: Yes, sir.

KING: And three years— call me Larry, okay?

Mr. WHITE: Okay, Larry.

KING: Three years later, you find what?

Mr. WHITE: Three years later, I come to a part in the diary. It was an everyday event that he would place into the diary.

KING: He was a police officer.

Mr. WHITE: He was a police officer for the Dallas police department, and I come across a part in the diary where it stated that him and two other men were a part of the assassination. He was— it started out that him, hisself *[sic]*, was 'Mandarin,' was located behind a— behind the stockade fence, and that 'Lebanon' was in the sixth floor book depository.

KING: That would be Oswald.

Mr. WHITE: No, Oswald was not one of the shooters in the Kennedy assassination. Oswald was probably in the book depository but was not one of the shooters in Dealy [sp?] Plaza. Saul was on the top of the Rikers [sp?] Building, and then what they had was a triangular shooting fire [sic] at the motorcade.

KING: That's the diary date of Friday, November 22nd.

Mr. WHITE: That's the— yes, sir.

KING: What did he have on November 21st? Did he write, "Tomorrow, we're going to kill the President"?

Mr. WHITE: No, he never did. What he had stated was that him and a few other men had met the day before and had corroborated the plans before the next day, and that was when the assassination would be, the November the 22nd.

KING: Did he enlarge at all on who Lee— Lee Harvey Oswald was and how that whole scenario took place?

Mr. WHITE: No, sir.

KING: He didn't?

Mr. WHITE: No, he never did.

KING: He just said he shot and two other guys shot.

Mr. WHITE: That's correct.

KING: Did he write why they shot?

Mr. WHITE: Yes, because the men in the buildings would be diversions for the man behind the picket fence, and what it would be is they would fire first, giving the diversion of the people maybe looking up towards the buildings when he was firing the fatal shot to the throat.

KING: Your father was how old?

Mr. WHITE: He would have been 28 years old at the time.

KING: Why did he want to kill the President?

right wing of the CIA at the time, to eliminate a national security threat.

KING: Well, what took you five years to give us this diary?

Mr. WHITE: It took me a long time to be able to corroborate the story, to be able to find other people that my father was involved with.

KING: You mean you went on a five-year personal investigation?

Mr. WHITE: No, sir. I was on a— I was on a full-time job basis and I had to do it on a personal venture, until 1989, and that's when I started doing this full time.

KING: Why didn't you think of taking it, say, to *The Dallas Times-Herald* or *The Dallas Morning News* or *The New York Times* or the *Washington Post* or CNN or somebody and say, "Look, look what I've got here. Let's— let's go"?

Mr. WHITE: First, I had to prove to myself that the story was true, and to investigate it— and my ideals at the time were that I was never going to bring the story public. I wanted to—

KING: It's your father.

Mr. WHITE: I know that, and it's hurt me very deeply to come forward to tell the story.

KING: What proved it to you?

Mr. WHITE: It was the diary in 1985—

KING: I know, but you said you had to go out to prove it. Was there any—

Mr. WHITE: Yeah, when I started investigating the Kennedy assassination, corroborating through other individuals that my father was plotted [sic] into the assassination is when I came forward to a businessman in Midland, Texas, and asked him if he would be interested in hearing the story, and he was, and at the time, it was just strictly a one-on-one individual, that he was interested in finding out who was involved in the Kennedy assassination.

KING: Where is the diary now?

Mr. WHITE: I would believe now it would be in the possession of the FBI

KING: Did you turn it over to them?

Mr. WHITE: No, I did not.

KING: How did it disappear, if it was in your possession?

Mr. WHITE: Well, when I was taken in in May of '88 to be interrogated for the involvement of the safety deposit box [sic] is when they discovered that I had a diary. And then I had already left the Federal Building, I had gathered all the material up—

KING: Oh, you were being investigated because you took something from a safety deposit box?

Mr. WHITE: No, sir, I was investigating a safety deposit box that my father had left.

KING: And they stopped you from doing that—

Mr. WHITE: That's correct.

KING: —and took the diary. Now, we have some statements here, if you'd like to comment. Bobby Ray Inman, former CIA deputy director, after examining the messages that Roscoe White allegedly received from the CIA, said, "They are not legitimate." His reaction is that the information you gathered was a forgery or invalid.

Mr. WHITE: That's incorrect. I have never forged anything. I've only found facts, and this man—

KING: You got CIA stuff, information?

Mr. WHITE: I have— John Stockwell, a former CIA director at the time, stated that he was 90 percent sure that it was corroborated, that they do look genuine.

KING: The FBI says that they received this information in 1988, as you state, but "determined that this information is not credible."

Mr. WHITE: That's what they told me in May of '88 when I was in there being interrogated. They denied me; they told me it was not true, and I had known then at that time that I was not going to get any cooperation of the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

KING: And the Dallas police department told the producers of Larry King Live that it was unlikely your father would have been on day work at that time; he would probably still be in the academy. The Dallas police department does verify that he was employed.

Mr. WHITE: Well, that's correct, but my father did not go to the academy until after January of 1964, so he was employed with the Dallas police department three months prior to him going to the academy.

KING: As a patrolman?

Mr. WHITE: No, sir, he was in the crowd scenes as a photographer.

KING: We'll be right back with Ricky White. We'll include your phone calls. This is Larry King Live. Tomorrow night, don't forget, Persian Gulf war— we present new antiwar activists. We'll meet them. They'll tell us why they think we shouldn't be there. All that and more ahead. Don't go away.

[Commercial break]

HUGH AYNESWORTH, Journalist and Author: You know, people want to believe the story. They want to believe there's a conspiracy, and they're going to believe it, this one, some others. There are over 300 of them now, and so I guess everybody had a little fun out of it.

KING: Our guest is Ricky White, the 29-year-old oil equipment salesman, who has just come out with this story. By the way, people backing his claims are his mother and your father's preacher — right? — as well as the JFK Assassination Information Center. Your mother says that her husband killed the President.

Mr. WHITE: That's correct.

KING: Why didn't you forget all this, Rick, and burn the diary?

Mr. WHITE: Well, it was because of my mother, that I'm standing up and telling the people today, is because without her pushing me on and wanting the story to be told, is the reason why I'm trying to tell it—

KING: But if everything jibes, and we now accept this, you have taken and painted your family, your father, your— in the mode of John Wilkes Booth, among the worst of our citizens ever, to kill a President by shooting him from behind.

behind. It is better to tell the story and let the people know the truth, and the truth is what tells for it all.

KING: Jonesboro, Georgia, hello.

13th CALLER: *[Jonesboro, Georgia]* Yes, sir. I'd like to know if this is propaganda for a movie, and if it's not, why would he disgrace his name and—

KING: Is this going to be a movie or a book?

Mr. WHITE: Neither one. We strictly went public for the safety of my family and everybody that was involved in it.

KING: Oh, you fear for your lives.

Mr. WHITE: That's correct.

KING: Laurel, Maryland, hello.

14th CALLER: *[Laurel, Maryland]* Yes, Larry, how are you doing tonight?

KING: Fine.

14th CALLER: I was asking, I saw his press conference, and he said that the government called his father to do it. Why would he— the government tell his father to kill the President of the United States?

Mr. WHITE: Because he was a national security threat to the government at the time.

KING: You mean the CIA wanted him eliminated. There are many who thought that — Jim Garrison, now a judge in Louisiana, thought that the CIA wanted the President eliminated, they thought he was the— it was the right-wing element of the CIA.

Mr. WHITE: That's correct, yes, the right wing from the CIA. It wasn't the actually the CIA; it was people that was above him.

KING: Did you talk to your mother about him, your father? Did she know he was going to do it that day he did it?

Mr. WHITE: No, she sure didn't. I think she had the suspicion, because she had overheard in two different conversations with Jack Ruby that— that they were plotting to eliminate John F. Kennedy.

KING: Your father died how many years later?

Mr. WHITE: He died in 1971.

KING: Eight years later.

Mr. WHITE: Yes, sir.

KING: Of natural causes?

Mr. WHITE: No, he was in an explosion at Edmund [sp?] Equipment Company, and it was a false— it wasn't— he basically had gone on a break for about 15 minutes and had returned, and somebody had cut an acetylene hoses inside there, and the room had filled up with acetylene, and there was a five-gallon gas can that was delivered from Arrow Chemical that was placed up under the welding table, and when he arched a flint—

KING: You're saying they killed him.

Mr. WHITE: That's correct.

KING: And the other two people, too, who are in the diary?

Mr. WHITE: I have— we have no idea. We're right now in the research of finding those two men.

KING: We'll be back with Ricky White on Larry King Live after this.

[Commercial break]

KING: By the way, this is Ricky White's first ever appearance on television, so this has not been easy, and Hugh Aynesworth, the gentleman we showed earlier kind of debunking this story, you say he was going to write the book of this, right?

Mr. WHITE: That's correct. He was going to write a synopsis for us, and he was very interested in doing it at the time but had another commitment and was wondering if we could wait later, before he could do it.

KING: So you think he's doing this out of spite?

Mr. WHITE: I believe he is.

KING: Good luck, Ricky. I know this has not been easy.

Mr. WHITE: Thank you, Larry.

KING: Thank you.

Mr. WHITE: I sure appreciate it.

KING: Ricky White, who says his father fired the fatal shot that November day in Dallas so many years ago, 27 years ago. Donna and Pat— people are still killing each other, aren't they? Donna and Patrick are standing by in Atlanta. Bernard Shaw will remain with them to co-anchor the news at the top of the hour. We'll stay right on this, right, guys?

DONNA KELLEY: That's right, Larry. President Bush continues handling the crisis in the Persian Gulf with a possible naval blockade getting more attention.

PATRICK EMORY: Also, the bill is higher on many of the airlines, and how long will one woman sit in her car that is about to be towed?

KELLEY: It's a battle of wills between the jacked-up car and its owner and the tow truck driver.

EMORY: Those stories and a lot more coming up shortly on the evening news. Larry?

KING: Thanks, guys. In an hour on Mutual Radio, we'll discuss the Persian Gulf and the rise and fall and rise and where are they of Eastern Airlines. See you back here tomorrow night. Have a great evening and so long.

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